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Ser. No. 10/636,140

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. (Withdrawn) A personal authentication apparatus comprising:
 - a biometric information input unit configured to input biometric information related to a person;
 - an ID code input unit configured to input an ID code related to the person;
 - a biometric information register configured to register the input biometric information;
 - an ID code register configured to register the input ID code;
 - an indexer configured to provide an index that relates the registered biometric information and ID code to each other and indicates locations where the registered biometric information and ID code are stored;
 - an index memory configured to store the provided index;
 - a retriever configured to retrieve registered biometric information from the biometric information register according to an index corresponding to an ID code input by a user into the ID code input unit; and

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an authentication unit configured to authenticate the user by comparing the retrieved biometric information with biometric information input by the user into the biometric information input unit.

2. (Currently Amended) A locking apparatus comprising [[:]] ;
a biometric information authentication system including:

a biometric information input unit configured to input
biometric information ~~related to~~ of a person;

an ID code input unit configured to input an ID code ~~related~~
assigned to the person;

a biometric information register ~~configured to register the~~
input preliminarily storing biometric information data at biometric
register locations as registered biometric information;

an ID code register ~~configured to register the input~~
preliminarily storing ID [[code]] codes at ID code register locations
as registered ID codes;

an indexer configured to provide an index that relates the
registered biometric information and the registered ID [[code]]
codes to each other using indexes that store respective ones of the
ID codes and respective ones of ~~and indicates~~ the biometric

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information register locations ~~[[where]]~~ whereat ones of the
registered biometric information data and ~~ID code~~ are stored that
are of a same person as the respective registered ID codes are
assigned to;

an index memory configured to store the ~~provided~~ index;

a retriever configured to retrieve one of the registered
biometric information data from the biometric information register
according to a biometric information register location of said
biometric register locations that is stored in one of the indexes ~~an~~
index corresponding to an ID code input by a user into the ID code
input unit thereby indirectly relating the ID code input with the
biometric information data; and

an authentication unit configured to authenticate the user by
comparing the retrieved biometric information data with biometric
information input by the user into the biometric information input
unit;

a lock driver configured to lock and unlock a door; and

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a controller configured to make the lock driver unlock the door when the authentication unit authenticates the user as a person having registered biometric information data stored in the biometric information register.

3. (New) The locking apparatus of claim 2 further comprising:

a host computer interfaced with the biometric information authentication system and storing copies of the registered biometric information data, the registered ID codes, and the indexes that relate the registered biometric information data and the registered ID codes; and

means for replacing ones of the registered biometric information data in the biometric information register using the indexes when the ones of the registered biometric information data are corrupted.

4. (New) The locking apparatus of claim 3 wherein the indexer serially indexes the indexes stored in the index register.

5. (New) The locking apparatus of claim 2 wherein the indexer serially indexes the indexes stored in the index register.